4-19-05

AF 2642

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 70147

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: AHMED et al.
Serial No	: 09/933,558
Filed	: August 20, 2001
For	: ADVANCED CONFERENCE DROP
Art Unit	: 2642
Examiner	: Thjuan P. Knowlin
Dated	: April 18, 2005

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

I. REAL PARTY INTEREST

This application is assigned to 3Com Corporation.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant, Appellant's legal representative, or Assignee has no knowledge of any appeals or interferences which will directly effect or be directly effected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 17 stand rejected and are on appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

No Amendments were filed subsequent to the Final Rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention relates to a telephone system, especially telephone systems known as a Private Branch Exchange (PBX). The present invention is preferably used in telephone systems where the voice or audio is digitized and sent to the other telephones using computer network-like packets.

In the present invention, the telephone system allows for conference calls. Three or more telephones such as elements 20 in Fig. 1 can have their voice packets combined so that a user of one telephone 20 can hear the voices coming from two or more other telephones 20. At least one of the telephones 20 is provided with a display 94. This display 94 shows a list of all the telephones, or people, partaking in the conference call. This at least one telephone 20 also has an input device such as soft keys 89 and buttons 88 as shown in Fig. 3. With these keys and/or buttons, the person using the one phone can select one of the participants in the conference call, and then cause that selected participant to be dropped from the conference call.

In the preferred embodiment, signals from the input device are sent to a network call processor 4, as shown in Fig. 1. The network call processor coordinates the flow of voice packets through the telephone system, and can indicate that the selected participant, who is to be dropped, does not receive voice packets, nor is able to send voice packets to the telephones 20 which still participate in the conference call.

CLAIM 1:

The one or more network of claim 1 is shown in Fig. 1 by reference numeral 18 and is preferably an Ethernet network. The three or more telephone units are shown in Fig. 1 by reference numerals 20 and 52. Since telephones 20 are connected to the Ethernet network, they receive and send data packets including voice data packets. The display of claim 1 is shown in Fig. 1 by reference 94 in the telephone units 20. The display 94 connected to at least one of the telephone units is described in the specification on page 14 lines 16 - 18.

The Ethernet network is described in the specification on page 10 lines 9 - 16. The telephone units which receive and send data packets are described in the specification on page 11 lines 4 - 11, and the phone 52 is described in the specification on page 11 lines 1 and 2.

The device for monitoring the calls of the telephone units is shown in Fig. 1 by reference 4 and is named the network call processor. This is described in the specification on page 12 line 14 - page 13 line 3. The input device associated with the display for selecting any of the telephone units from the conference call and dropping the selected telephone unit from the conference call is shown in Fig. 3 by elements 86, 88, 89 and 90. The keys 86, 88 and 90 are described in the specification on page 4 lines 16 - 18 and page 19 lines 6 - 12.

CLAIM 8:

The distributed network is shown in Fig. 1 by reference 18, the plurality of network telephones are shown by reference 20 and the display of each telephone is shown by reference 94. Each network telephone is capable of engaging in concurrent telephonic communication

with two or more of the plurality of network telephones to establish a conference call, through network call processor 4, and is described on page 12 lines 14 - page 13 line 3. The I/O device in the plurality of network telephones is shown in Fig. 2 by the physical interface 64 and the MAC device 62. These structures are in electrical communication with the network 18 for receiving and sending packets to other devices connected to the network. This is described in the specification on page 4 lines 3 - 7. The packet controller is shown in Fig. 2 by reference 60 and described in the specification on page 14 lines 7 - 14. The input device is shown in Fig. 2 by reference numbers 86, 88 and 90, as well as in Fig. 3 by reference 89. This input device is discussed in the specification on page 14 lines 16 - 18. The input device, in combination with the network call processor 4 allows the user of the telephone device to drop one or more of the conference participants, as described on page 18 line 13 - page 20 line 4.

CLAIM 16:

The three telecommunication devices connected to the network are shown in Fig. 1 by telephone units 20 and 52. The receiving and sending of packets from each device to other devices is performed through the physical interface 64, the MAC device 62 and the packet controller 60, as shown in Fig. 2. The public network is shown in Fig. 1 by reference 30. The combining of packets for a concurrent telephonic communication, or a conference call is described in the specification on page 16 lines 12 and 13 and page 20 lines 12 and 13 and page 21 lines 7 - 16. This combining of packets is preferably done in the packet controller 60, in combination with the D/A device 78. The forming of a list of the telecommunication devices

participating in the concurrent telephonic communications is preferably generated by the network call processor 4, as described in the specification on page 17 lines 13 - 16 and page 18 lines 9 - 13. The displaying of all or part of this list is performed by the display 94, in combination with the packet controller 60 and the control circuitry 84, and described in the specification on page 18 lines 9 - 13. The step of removing one or more of the devices participating in the concurrent telephone communication is performed by the keys 88, 89, 90 and 86 as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and as described in the specification on page 18 lines 13 - page 19 line 12.

CLAIM 17:

The distributed network is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 by reference 18. The network call processor is shown in Fig. 1 by reference 4. The telephone line network interface in the preferred embodiment can be either line card 22 or digital line card 26. This is described in the specification on page 11 lines 11 - 16. The plurality of network phones are shown in Fig. 1 by reference 20. The I/O device is shown in Fig. 2 by the physical interface 64 and the MAC device 62. These structures are in electrical communication with the network 18 for receiving and sending packets to other devices connected to the network. This is described in the specification on page 4 lines 3 - 7. The input device in claim 17 which produces audio signals from an input local to the device, is shown in Fig. 2 by reference 74 and is described in the specification on page 14 lines 12 - 14. The packet controller is shown in Fig. 2 by reference 60 and described in the specification on page 14 lines 7 - 14. The local input device is shown in

Fig. 2 by reference numbers 86, 88 and 90, as well as in Fig. 3 by reference 89. The display 94 connected to at least one of the telephone units is described in the specification on page 14 lines 16 - 18.

CLAIM 3:

The telephone line network interface is shown in the preferred embodiments of the drawings by references 22 and 26. The public telephone network is shown in the embodiment of the drawings by reference 30, page 17 lines 7 - 9, page 18 lines 6 - 8.

CLAIM 4:

The display and input device being provided as part of one of the telephone units is shown in Fig. 2 which shows the telephone unit having the display 94 and elements 86, 88 and 90 being part of the input device, page 14 lines 16 - 18.

CLAIM 5:

The input device including a button position adjacent to the display and a portion of the display indicating a function of the button is shown in Fig. 3 with soft keys 89, page 5 lines 16 - 18.

CLAIM 7:

The input device including a web browser software operating on the computer network

is shown in Fig. 4 and is described in the specification on page 17 line 3.

CLAIM 9:

The telephone line network interface is shown in the preferred embodiments of the drawings by references 22 and 26. The public telephone network is shown in the embodiment of the drawings by reference 30, page 17 lines 17 - 9 and page 18 lines 6 - 8.

CLAIM 10:

The network call processor is shown in the drawings by reference 4, and is described in the specification on page 12 line 14 - page 13 line 3.

CLAIM 11:

The telephone units outside of the distributed network, are shown in Fig. 1 by elements 52 and 50 as an example. This is described in the specification on page 15 lines 10 - 12 and page 18 lines 5 - page 19 line 5.

CLAIM 12:

The network call processor is shown in the drawings by reference 4, and is described in the specification on page 12 line 14 - page 13 line 3. The generating of an identifier associated with the conference call is described in the specification on page 20 lines 5 - 11.

CLAIM 14:

The display and input device being provided as part of one of the telephone units is shown in Fig. 2 which shows the telephone unit having the display 94 and elements 86, 88 and 90 being part of the input device, page 14 lines 16 - 18. The input device including a button position adjacent to the display and a portion of the display indicating a function of the button is shown in Fig. 3 with soft keys 89, page 5 lines 16 - 18.

CLAIM 15:

The input device including a web browser software operating on the computer network is shown in Fig. 4 and is described in the specification on page 17 line 3.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

(1) Whether claims 1 - 17 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,262,979).

VII. ARGUMENT

CLAIM 1:

Claim 1 sets forth a plurality of telephone units where at least one of the telephone units has a display. Claim 1 also sets forth a device for monitoring the calls and to provide data to the display showing conference call participant information with regard to telephone units

participating in the conference call. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of such a monitoring device in Anderson.

The rejection states that Anderson describes a display, in particular the LCD of I/O devices 15. The rejection states that Anderson also describes the monitoring device of claim 1 in column 5, lines 33-55. Applicant has reviewed this portion of Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of any monitoring device in this portion of Anderson which provides data to a display for showing conference call participant information. This portion of Anderson describes a list of participants, but Applicant does not find any device for sending this list of participants to a display. Instead it appears that this list is only used to generate a unicast packet for each of the telephone sets on the list of participants, column 5 lines 38-40. Since there is no structure described in this portion of Anderson for providing data to a display, this portion of Anderson cannot anticipate the monitoring device of claim 1. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any other structure in Anderson similar to the monitoring device of claim 1. Therefore the monitoring device of claim 1 causes claim 1 not to be anticipated by Anderson.

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with the above argument and states that Anderson does teach and suggest a display which displays all or part of a list of identities of combined packets in column 3 lines 32 - 48. Applicant has reviewed column 3 lines 32 - 48 and finds that this portion describes a liquid crystal display, and light emitting diodes. Applicant finds no indication in this portion that this display has any structure which would display all or part of a list of identities of combined packets. The rejection also indicates that

the above structure of Applicant's claim 1 can be found in column 5 lines 33 - 46. However, as described above, this portion of Anderson only indicates that a list is present, but Applicant finds no indication of any structure which would display this list. Therefore the further statements of the rejection do not cause claim 1 to be anticipated.

Claim 1 also sets forth an input device associated with the display for selecting any of the telephone units from the conference call participating information. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of this input device in Anderson. The rejection indicates that this input device is described in Anderson in column 5, lines 33-55. As Applicant has described above, Anderson does not describe a display which displays participant information. Therefore it is quite clear that Anderson cannot describe an input device associated with such a display. Furthermore, Anderson cannot describe an input device which selects any of the telephone units from the conference call participant information since Anderson does not have a display which shows conference call participant information. Since there is no such display or participant information, Anderson cannot describe an input device which selects a telephone unit from such participant information. The input device of claim 1 therefore is not anticipated by Anderson, and further causes claim 1 to define over Anderson.

Claim 1 also sets forth that the input device drops the selected telephone unit from the conference call. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any structure in Anderson which drops a selected telephone unit from a conference call. This is especially true when the telephone unit that is dropped is one selected by an input device associated with a display. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and while Anderson describes conference calls, and a list of

participants of the conference call, Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any structure in Anderson which would drop a telephone unit or participant from a conference call. Therefore the input device of claim 1 further causes claim 1 to define over Anderson.

Applicant notes that Anderson does describe removing conference call identifiers from table 72 when the conference call ends. However Anderson does not describe any structure for actually ending the conference call, and certainly does not describe an input device associated with the display for selecting a telephone unit and then dropping that telephone unit from the conference call.

In the Examiner's Response to Arguments the Examiner compares the input device of claim 1 to the handset of Anderson and states that the handset is associated with the display for selecting any of the telephone units from the conference call participating information. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion, nor does Applicant understand, how the handset of Anderson selects a telephone unit from the conference call participating information.

CLAIM 8:

Independent claim 8 sets forth an input device connected to, or associated with, a display. The display is then set forth as displaying all or part of a list which corresponds to an identity of each source of packets combined by a packet controller. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a display which displays all or part of a list of identities of combined packets. The rejection appears to indicate that this is described in Anderson in column 5, lines 33-55. Applicant has reviewed this portion and finds no teaching

nor suggestion of a display displaying a list of combined packets. Since Anderson does not describe a display displaying a list of combined packets, Anderson cannot anticipate the display of claim 8. Claim 8 therefore defines over Anderson.

Claim 8 also sets forth that the input device is connected with the display whereby an identity may be selected. Since Anderson does not teach nor suggest a display providing a list of identities, Anderson clearly cannot describe an input device associated with a display where an identity displayed on the display may be selected. Therefore the input device of claim 8 cannot be anticipated by Anderson. Claim 8 therefore further defines over Anderson.

Claim 8 further sets forth that the input device selects an identity for dropping a participant from the conference call. As described above, Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Anderson of any structure for selecting a participant to be dropped from a conference call. Claim 8 therefore further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 16:

Claim 16 also sets forth the step of removing one of the devices by selecting the one device from the list. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of selecting one of the devices from a list and then removing that one device by its selection. Claim 16 therefore also defines over Anderson. Applicant notes that Anderson does describe that identities are removed from the list, but there is no step of removing devices participating in a concurrent communication by selecting a participant from the list.

CLAIM 17:

Claim 17 sets forth a packet controller combining packets and displaying information on a display corresponding to an identity of a source of the packets combined. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion in Anderson of any packet controller which displays information on the identity of combined packets. Since this structure is not present in Anderson, claim 17 also defines over Anderson.

Claim 17 also sets forth that the packet controller allows one of the identities displayed to be selected for dropping a source from a concurrent telephonic communication. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any structure in Anderson where an identity of a source can be selected for dropping from a concurrent communication. Since Anderson does not teach nor suggest any such structure, Anderson further cannot anticipate the packet controller of claim 17. Claim 17 therefore further defines over Anderson.

Claim 17 also sets forth a network call processor with data storage forming a central database. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of this type of network call processor in Anderson. The rejection of claim 17 does not specifically indicate which structure of Anderson is equated with the network call processor. The rejection does indicate that the DMA controller 68 and processor 66 are significant portions of Anderson. Applicant has reviewed elements 68 and 66, and finds that these portions do not form a central database. Instead these portions appear to be present in a packet controller 24 which appears to be part of a packet forwarding system 10 which is arranged between two networks and connected to a local device 17 such as the telephone unit. It does not appear that elements 68, 66, 24, 10 and 7 are central

elements, but that they are instead associated with every phone in Anderson. It is Applicant's position therefore that elements 66 and 68 of Anderson do not form the central database of claim 17. Claim 17 therefore further defines over Anderson.

Claim 17 further sets forth a telephone line network interface connected to a telephone line and connected to the distributed network. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Anderson of a telephone line network interface, especially one that is connected to a telephone line. Anderson instead describes a packet forwarding system between two computer network systems. This packing forwarding system is described as a telecommunication device, and preferably includes a telephone set. Figs. 1 and 2 of Anderson show a line 19. However line 19 is not defined in the specification and is clearly not a telephone line connected to a public phone network. Since Anderson does not describe a telephone line network interface, especially not such an interface having all of the features set forth in claim 17, claim 17 therefore further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 3:

Claim 3 describes a telephone line network interface connected to a public telephone network to establish one or more line connections to one or more telephone units to form a branch exchange. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a telephone line network interface connected to a public telephone network. Instead Anderson appears to be concerned with having a telephone set being arranged between two separate networks or collision domains. Since Anderson does not describe a telephone line network

interface connected to a public telephone network, claim 3 therefore further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 4:

Claim 4 sets forth that the input device is provided as part of at least one of the telephone units. As Applicant has described previously, Anderson does not describe an input device, especially not an input device which can select and drop participants from a conference call. Therefore it is quite clear that Anderson cannot describe such an input device as provided as part of one of the telephone units. The rejection of claim 4 indicates several portions in Anderson which are to be equivalent to the structure of claim 4. Applicant notes that some of these portions describe input devices, however none of the input devices performs the functions of the input device of claim 4. Therefore the input device of claim 4 further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 5:

Claim 5 also sets forth further features of the input device, namely that the input device includes a button positioned adjacent to display and a portion of said display indicating the function of said button. In rejecting claim 5, the rejection cites columns 3 - 4 lines 65 - 10 of Anderson. Applicant notes that this portion describes the user pressing several keys on the keypad. However it does not indicate that these keys are positioned adjacent to the display and that a portion of the display indicates a function of the button. The rejection also cites column

6 lines 25 - 33 of Anderson. Applicant has reviewed this portion, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a button positioned adjacent to a display and where a portion of the display indicates a function of the button. Applicant further notes that even if these keys and buttons of Anderson were adjacent to a display, and a portion of display indicated a function of the buttons, the buttons of the present invention are part of an input device which drops conference call participants. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any of the buttons in Anderson dropping conference call participants. Therefore claim 5 further defines over the prior art.

CLAIM 7:

Claim 7 sets forth that the input device includes web browser software. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Anderson of any input device including web browser software, especially where the input device selects telephone units and drops the selected telephone unit from a conference call. Claim 7 therefore further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 9:

Claim 9 describes a telephone line network interface connected to a public telephone network to establish one or more line connections to one or more telephone units to form a branch exchange. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a telephone line network interface connected to a public telephone network. Instead Anderson appears to be concerned with having a telephone set being arranged between two separate networks or collision domains. Since Anderson does not describe a telephone line network

interface connected to a public telephone network, claim 9 therefore further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 10:

Claim 10 sets forth a call processor establishing a conference call including generating a list of all participants and forwarding the list to one or more of the plurality of network telephones. The rejection states that the call processor is described in Anderson in column 5 lines 33 - 56. Applicant has reviewed this portion of Anderson, and finds this portion of Anderson to describe each telephone set receiving a list of participants and indicating that this list of participants can be generated prior to the start of the conference call. However this portion of Anderson does not describe any structure for actually generating the list of participants. Claim 10 therefore further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 11:

Claim 11 indicates that the conference call participants can be outside of the distributed network, and connected to the distributed network via the line interface. As Applicant has described previously with regard to claim 9, Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Anderson of a telephone line network interface. Therefore Anderson clearly cannot describe conference call participants being telephone units outside of the distributed network and connected via the telephone line interface. Claim 11 further sets forth that the multicast or unicast transmissions include transmissions addressed to the line network interface. Since

Anderson does not describe a line network interface, Anderson cannot describe multicast or unicast transmissions addressed to the line network interface. Claim 11 therefore further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 12:

Claim 12 sets forth a network call processor connected to the distribution network for monitoring data traffic to and from the plurality of network telephones. Applicant has reviewed Anderson, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of such a network call processor. Anderson appears to describe individual telephones, which handle their own traffic. However Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any structure in Anderson which monitors data traffic to and from a plurality of network telephones. Claim 12 therefore further defines over Anderson.

Claim 12 also sets forth that the call processor establishes a conference call including generating an identifier associated with the conference call and forwarding the identifier to one or more of the plurality of network telephones. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of a conference call identifiers in Anderson, and therefore claim 12 further defines over Anderson.

CLAIM 13:

Claim 13 sets forth many of the features of claim 11. However claim 13 depends from claim 12. Therefore the combination of claims 13 and 12 further differentiate from the prior art due to the combination of the arguments of claims 12 and 11.

CLAIM 14:

Claim 14 also sets forth further features of the input device, namely that the input device includes a button positioned adjacent to display and a portion of said display indicating the function of said button. In rejecting claim 14, the rejection cites columns 3 - 4 lines 65 - 10 of Anderson. Applicant notes that this portion describes the user pressing several keys on the keypad. However it does not indicate that these keys are positioned adjacent to the display and that a portion of the display indicates a function of the button. The rejection also cites column 6 lines 25 - 33 of Anderson. Applicant has reviewed this portion, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a button positioned adjacent to a display and where a portion of the display indicates a function of the button. Applicant further notes that even if these keys and buttons of Anderson were adjacent to a display, and a portion of display indicated a function of the buttons, the buttons of the present invention are part of an input device which drops conference call participants. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion of any of the buttons in Anderson dropping conference call participants. Therefore claim 14 further defines over the prior art.

CLAIM 15:

Claim 15 sets forth that the input device includes web browser software. Applicant finds no teaching nor suggestion in Anderson of any input device including web browser software, especially where the input device selects telephone units and drops the selected telephone unit from a conference call. Claim 15 therefore further defines over Anderson.

For all of the above reasons, the Board is respectfully requested to overrule the Examiner and allow each of the claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Appellant,

By: _____
Theobald Dengler
Registration No. 34,575
McGLEW AND TUTTLE

TD:tf
70147.11
Enclosed: Appendix with Claims
Credit Card Payment Form

DATED: April 18, 2005
SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-0827
(914) 941-5775

SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, NO.: EV436438298US

McGLEW AND TUTTLE
SCARBOROUGH STATION, SCARBOROUGH, NY 10510-9227

BY: _____ DATE: April 18, 2005

APPENDIX

1. A conference call telephone system, comprising:

one or more network;

three or more telephone units interconnected by said one or more network to provide three or more participants of a conference call, at least one of said telephone units receiving and sending data packets including voice data packets;

a display connected to at least one of said telephone units or forming a part of at least one of said telephone units;

a device for monitoring calls of at least one of said telephone units to provide data to said display for showing conference call participant information as to the telephone units participating in the conference call;

an input device associated with said display for selecting any of the telephone units from the conference call participant information and dropping the selected telephone unit from the conference call.

2. A conference call telephone system according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said three or more telephone units receive and send data packets including voice data packets.

3. A conference call telephone system according to claim 1, further comprising a telephone line network interface, said one or more network including a first network connected to said at least one of said telephone units receiving and sending data packets and connected to said telephone line network interface for receiving data packets including packets with telephone voice data, said one or more network including a public telephone network, said telephone line network interface being connected to said public telephone network to establish one or more line connections to one or more telephone units to form a branch exchange.

4. A conference call telephone system according to claim 1, wherein said display is provided as part of at least one of said telephone units receiving and sending data packets and said input device is provided as part of at least one of said telephone units receiving and sending data packets.

5. A conference call telephone system according to claim 4, wherein said input device includes a button positioned adjacent to said display and a portion of said display indicating the function of said button.

6. A conference call telephone system according to claim 1, wherein said display is a display associated with a computer network device, and said input device is provided as part of said computer network device.

7. A conference call telephone system according to claim 6, wherein said input device includes web browser software operating on said computer network device.

8. A network telephone system comprising:

a distributed network;

a plurality of network telephones, each network telephone being connected to said distributed network, each network telephone having a display for displaying information, each network telephone being capable of engaging in a concurrent telephonic communication with two or more of said plurality of network telephones to establish a conference call, each of said plurality of network telephones including an I/O device in electrical communication with the network for receiving and sending packets to other devices connected to the network and a packet controller in electrical communication with the I/O device and the input device, the packet controller combining packets received by the I/O device;

a display connected to or associated with at least one of said plurality of network telephones;

an input device connected to or associated with said display, said display displaying all or part of a list on said display corresponding to an identity of each source of packets combined whereby an identity may be selected for dropping a source, thereby dropping a participant from the conference call.

9. A conference call telephone system according to claim 8, further comprising a telephone line network interface for receiving data packets including packets with telephone voice data and being connected to a public telephone network to establish one or more line connections to one or more telephone units to form a branch exchange.

10. A conference call telephone system according to claim 9, further comprising a network call processor connected to said distributed network for monitoring data traffic to and from said plurality of network telephones, said call processor establishing a conference call including generating a list of all participants and forwarding the list to one or more of said plurality of network telephones in said list of all participants for sending multicast or unicast transmissions to the network address based on said list of all participants.

11. A conference call telephone system according to claim 10, wherein the conference call participants in said list of participants include telephone units outside of said distributed network, connected to said distributed network via said line interface, said multicast or unicast transmissions including transmissions addressed to said line network interface.

12. A conference call telephone system according to claim 10, further comprising a network call processor connected to said distribution network for monitoring data traffic to and from said plurality of network telephones, said call processor establishing a conference call including generating an identifier associated with the conference call and forwarding the identifier to one or more of said plurality of network telephones in said list of all participants for sending multicast transmissions to the network address based on said identifier associated with the conference call.

13. A conference call telephone system according to claim 12, wherein the conference call participants of said identifier associated with the conference call includes telephone units outside of said distributed network, connected to said distributed network via said line interface, unicast transmissions including transmissions addressing said line network interface.

14. A conference call telephone system according to claim 8, wherein said display is provided as part of at least one of said network telephones receiving and sending data packets and said input device is provided as part of at least one of said network telephones receiving and sending data packets, wherein said input device includes a button positioned adjacent to said display and a portion of said display indicating the function of said button.

15. A conference call telephone system according to claim 8, wherein said display is a display associated with a computer network device, and said input device is provided as part of said computer network device and includes web browser software operating on said computer network device.

16. A telephone conference call process, comprising the steps of:

providing a network;

providing at least three telecommunication devices connected to the network;

receiving and sending packets from each device to other devices connected to the network by one of a network connection associated with the telecommunication device and an interface to the network via a public network or the internet;

combining packets received by the telecommunication devices for a concurrent telephonic communications and producing an audio signal with the combined packets;

forming a list of telecommunication devices participating in the concurrent telephonic communications and displaying all or a part of the list at one of said at least three telecommunication devices; and

removing one or more of the devices participating in the concurrent telephonic communications by selecting the one or more of the devices participating in the concurrent telephonic communications from said list.

17. A network telephone system comprising:

a distributed network;

a network call processor with data storage forming a central database, said call processor being connected to said distributed network;

a telephone line network interface connected to a telephone line and connected to said distributed network for receiving packets from said distributed network and sending packets to said distributed network including packets with telephone voice data;

a plurality of network telephones, each network telephone being connected to said distributed network, each network telephone having a display for displaying information, each network telephone being capable of engaging in a concurrent telephonic communication and including:

an I/O device in electrical communication with the distributed network for receiving and sending packets to other devices connected to the network;

an input device for producing audio signals from an input local to the device;

a packet controller in electrical communication with the I/O device and the input device, the packet controller generating packets from the audio signals received by the input device, forwarding the generated packets to the I/O device for transmission to the network, combining packets received by the I/O device and producing an audio signal with the combined packets and the audio signals from the local input device and displaying information on a display corresponding to an identity of a source of packets combined whereby said identity may be selected for dropping a source form a concurrent telephonic communication.